

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. During the last visit to Moscow of Czechoslovak Generals Vaclav Kratochvil and Vaclav Thor¹, Soviet military authorities expressed a desire for closer cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Poland.
2. On 10 March 1953, the Czech-Polish military commission which was sitting at Prague under the chairmanship of Czech General Frantisek Vesely² decided to organize an obligatory exchange of Czech and Polish officers. Such an exchange had been suggested by the Soviets in 1950 but they abruptly changed their policy on this matter.
3. The Czechoslovak Ministry of National Defense decided to send 200 officers to Poland as of 1 April 1953. These officers were to be placed with Polish garrisons in Radom, Lublin, Torun, Kielce, Oniezn, Lodz, Poznan and Gdynia. During their stay in Poland, Czechoslovak officers were to be authorized to wear their Czech uniforms in public. The decision of the Polish Government on sending Polish officers to Czechoslovakia is being awaited in Prague.
4. The Czechoslovak General Staff is preparing for the participation of several Czech units in Polish Army maneuvers which will take place in western Poland on the German border and in southeast Poland on the Czechoslovak border. It is not impossible that at the last moment Moscow may order combined maneuvers for the Czechoslovak and Polish armies.³ It is expected that Soviet Marshal Konstantin Rokossowski will visit Prague.

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